

Attachment A: Environmental Protection Measures

Invasive Plants Management

- 1) Standard safety procedures and standard operating procedures would be strictly followed.ⁱ
- 2) During the raptor breeding season, January 1 through August 31, control of noxious weeds would be implemented or delayed in accordance with spatial and temporal recommendations defined in the Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances (USFWS 2002).

Control of noxious weeds would not be conducted within 0.6 miles of active Sage Grouse leks during lekking and nesting season from March 1st through June 30th. Greater Sage-Grouse nest and brood surveys in areas proposed for noxious weeds control efforts will be conducted no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. If active nests and/or broods are located, rehabilitation activities will be delayed until the grouse have voluntarily left the area.

- 4) All landowners within the treatment areas are welcome to attend training of proper identification and growth stages of noxious weeds before treatment. Periodic compliance checks of the weed control activities would be done during the treatment period with the BLM and the affected landowners. A monitoring and evaluation program would be cooperatively developed between all the affected landowners within the treated sites to assess annual progress of the Integrated Weed Management Program.ⁱ

- 5) The Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) would be given the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed monitoring program.ⁱ

- 6) Prior to any control efforts, Native American concerns would be solicited in accordance with the Native American consultation regulation and policy.ⁱ

- 7) The Ft. McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone tribe will be given 2 weeks notification before any spray operations are conducted.ⁱ

- 8) Herbicides would be calculated and purchased only in quantities needed to complete each BLM spot treatment and contractor applied treatment. Label directions would be strictly followed.ⁱ

9) Prior to any chemical treatment, areas would be evaluated for the presence of riparian areas, special status plants and animals, or if they are cultural sites. No chemical application would occur within 50 yards of any Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, or Special Status species.ⁱ

10) Re-applications of the herbicide would not be less than the persistence factor identified for any product selected for use.ⁱ

11) Ground applications of herbicides (including backpack and power sprayer) would be limited to spraying the target weeds and the surrounding ground for 10 feet. Backpack applications of liquids would occur only at low nozzle pressure and at ground level. Granular formulations would be applied by broadcast spreaders or by hand within 3.5' of the ground.ⁱ

12) Ground application of granular formulations would be done in wind speeds not exceeding 10 miles per hour (mph). Ground applications of liquids would not occur when wind speeds exceed 8 mph.ⁱ

13) The BLM would notify the livestock grazing permittee(s) when herbicides are used on grazing allotments. Phenology of target species and multiple use objectives would also be considered.ⁱ

14) The use of herbicides near water would be based on the buffer requirements established in the BLM Chemical Pest Control Manual, Handbook H-9011-1; distance from water (in horizontal feet) would be as follows: 10 feet backpack, 25 feet for vehicle mounted spreader of granular formulations, and 50 feet for vehicle mounted sprayer of liquids.ⁱ

15) No herbicide application would be conducted when rain (greater than 50% chance) is predicted within 24 hours of treatment. The BLM would use the Interagency Fire Dispatch Center for weather reports for rain predictions.ⁱ

16) Treatments will follow restriction based on avoidance buffers and season of use restriction within sage grouse habitat. All treatments identified will be in accordance with Instruction Memorandums WO-IM-2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures and WO-IM-2010-149, Sage-Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management.

17) Herbicides will be applied only by a state and federally certified pesticide applicator. All applications will be in accordance with the instructions and standard operating procedures identified on the product label(s).

18) All herbicide spray solutions would be applied with a blue dye so that application sites are visible.

ⁱ **Integrated Weed Management Environmental Assessment** NV-020-02-19, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact 8/27/02.